

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Claims 31 and 32 have been cancelled.

This examiners amendment was made in order to cancel duplicate claims, as claims 31 and 32 were duplicates of claims 53 and 57 respectively.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Roland Long on February 13, 2008.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 27-30, 33-47, and 53-57 are allowed.

In regard to claims 27 and 53, the prior art does not teach or render obvious applying said stimulation electrical signals to said shielding sheath of electromagnetic shielding to generate and electromagnetic field and an analysis step of taking temperature measurements in said detection zone, drawing up a map of the temperatures that result from radiant energy being emitted by the electromagnetic field via a defect of the harness and being converted into heat, and locating the defect of the harness on the map and in the combination as claimed.

Claims 28-30, 33-39 and 54-57 further limit these allowable claims and are therefore also allowable.

In regard to claim 40, the prior art does not teach or render obvious third means for applying said stimulation electrical signals to the shielding sheath of electromagnetic shielding to generate an electric field and fifth means for detecting the thermal energy and associated with an image acquisition and storage unit, an image processor unit, and an image display unit in order to perform thermal analysis, draw up a temperature map, and locate on said temperature map the electromagnetic protection defect of said shielding sheath of the harness, the located defect being an electromagnetic protection defect located within the harness and in the combination as claimed.

Claims 41-47 further limit allowable claim 40 and are therefore also allowable.

Additional pertinent prior art includes:

Toda (6513000) which discloses a simulation method of wiring temperature rise, wherein the temperature of a wire is determined and mapped in wires, but lacks doing this to locate defects in the wires, based on a result from radiant energy being emitted by the electromagnetic field from a stimulation signal.

Eslambolchi et al. (6873160) discloses a method for testing protector units fiber optic cables wherein an electrical signal is generated and conducted through a metallic sheath of the cable, wherein an electromagnetic field is produced. Lacks wherein temperature measurements are taken and mapped to determine a location of a defect

on the cable, wherein the temperature is a result of the radiant energy from the electromagnetic field being converted into heat.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEFF NATALINI whose telephone number is (571)272-2266. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 571-272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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